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Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 02235 111913Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /059 W
----------091583 111922Z /73
O R 111840Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7181
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

UNCLAS GEORGETOWN 2235

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, GY
SUBJECT: EARLY RETURNS OF REFERENDUM VOTING

REF: GEORGETOWN 2223

1. AT 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME ON JULY 11 THE GUYANESE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT ALL OVERSEAS BALLOTS HAD BEEN RECEIVED AND COUNTED AS WELL AS BALLOTS FROM TEN ELECTORAL DISTRICTS (LARGELY IN GEORGETOWN) OUT OF A TOTAL OF THIRTY-EIGHT DISTRICTS IN GUYANA. OF THE TOTAL OF 208,586 VOTES WHICH THUS FAR HAVE BEEN COUNTED, 156,660 WERE IN FAVOR OF THE GOVERNMENT SPONSORED BILL TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION, 4,388 WERE OPPOSED, AND 1,488 VOTES WERE INVALID. THUS OF THE VALID VOTES COUNTED SO FAR, 93.6 PERCENT FAVORED THE AMEND-MENT AND 6.4 PERCENT OPPOSED.

2. THE OVERSEAS VOTING, INCLUDED IN THE ABOVE FIGURES IS COMPLETE. 24,576 VOTERS CAST BALLOTS OUT OF 40,274 REGISTERED (I.E., 61PCT OF THOSE ELIGIBLE VOTED). EXCLUDING 684 SPOILED BALLOTS,
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93.6 PERCENT (22,359) OF THE OVERSEAS VOTERS VOTED YES, WHILE 6.4 PERCENT (1,533) VOTED NO.

3. THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT VOTER TURNOUT WAS HEAVY, RUNNING AN AVERAGE OF 77.92 PERCENT OF REGISTERED VOTERS. THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED "GUYANA CHRONICLE" OF JULY 11

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CONCEDED THAT IN MOST AREAS VOTING WAS SLOW DURING MOST OF THE DAY, BUT PICKED UP DURING THE LATE AFTERNOON. THE "CHRONICLE" EXPLAINED THE LATE UPSURGE OF VOTING IN GEORGETOWN BY STATING THAT "ACTIVISTS AT THE POLLING STATIONS GAINED MOMENTUM AS PNC ACTIVISTS COMBED THEIR LISTS AND FERRETED OUT THEIR SUPPORTERS."

4. CHEDDI JAGAN, LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP), CLAIMED THAT THE RULING PNC BUSSED AROUND GROUPS OF SUPPORTERS TO VOTE AT DIFFERENT POLLING STATIONS, AND THAT ATTEMPTS BY OPPOSITION SUPPORTERS TO PHOTOGRAPH THE OPERATION WERE BROKEN UP BY THE GOVERNMENT. IN AN APPARENTLY RELATED INCIDENT, DR. MAKEPEACE RICHMOND, LEADER OF THE LIBERATOR PARTY, A SMALL OPPOSITION GROUP NOT REPRESENTED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, CLAIMED THAT HE WAS ASSULTED. THE GOVERNMENT HAS CHARACTERIZED JGAN'S ALLEGATION OF VOTE FRAUD AS "RIDICULOUS". THE POLICE STATED THAT THERE WERE NO "MAJOR" INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE ON REFERENDUM DAY THANKS TO THE VIGILANCE OF THE SECURITY FORCES, ALTHOUGH ADMITTING THAT THERE WERE A FEW INCIDENTS INVOLVING MEMBERS OF BOTH MAJOR PARTIES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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Expiration:
Film Number: D780284-0122
Format: TEL
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780776/aaaaclpm.tel
Line Count: 85
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 7e04cf77-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Reference: 78 GEORGETOWN 2223
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2056302
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EARLY RETURNS OF REFERENDUM VOTING
TAGS: PINT, GY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7e04cf77-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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